

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 and added new claims 13-20. Accordingly, claims 1-20 remain pending in the application.

DRAWINGS

The Office Action dated 18 October 2002 objected to the drawings, stating that “Figure 2B depicts dielectric layer comprising a vacuum. Therefore, a silicon dioxide layer must be shown of the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

Applicants traverse that objection for at least the following reasons.

FIG. 2B does not depict “dielectric layer comprising a vacuum.” In that regard, the Examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to FIG. 8 of Ng which, like FIG. 2B of the present application, does not show the interlayer dielectric layers that anyone of even passing familiarity with the art would recognize are present. Ng stated:

“For clarity, the interlayer dielectric layers are not shown in FIG. 8.”

Ng at col. 10, lines 10-11. So, just as FIG. 8 of Ng clearly does not depict “dielectric layer comprising a vacuum,” FIG. 2B also does not depict “dielectric layer comprising a vacuum.”

Meanwhile, 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) provides that “conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a